

III. REMARKS

Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to recite that the camera and the acousto-electric transducer are located in the same element. Since this feature is not found in Umezawa, the rejection of claims 1-5 and 7-11 under 35 USC 102 on this reference should be withdrawn. Further, since this feature is not suggested by Umezawa, these claims are unobvious over it.

The main idea of the present invention is that the camera and the microphone are in the same element. This element is connected to a mobile station via at least one cable.

The present invention gives considerable advantages compared to the prior art. As the video conference system can be implemented merely by means of a mobile station and a portable HF set comprising a video camera, *this system can be easily carried along, thanks to its light weight and compact size*, and it can be used almost anywhere and at any time. The user can, for example, participate in a video conference in the middle of a forest or a lake, with no electricity or a fixed communication network. Secondly, *the video conference system according to the invention is considerably less expensive to implement when compared to the prior art* (the present application, page 4, lines 5-24).

In Umezawa et al., the purpose is to provide a portable video telephone set acquiring required information (voice and video information) and sending a status of a user in real time by the video and voice information while the user is occupied in a job requiring both of his hands. A head set 5 is provided with a speaker section 7, a display section 10, a camera section 11, a

microphone section 12 and communication equipment 6. A cord 3 is connected to the head set 5, and an operation section 4 is connected to the cord 3. The speaker section 7 is fitted to one ear of the user, and the display section 10 corresponds to one eye of the user. The display device 10, the camera section 11 and the microphone section 12 are fitted via turnable arms 8, 9 fitted to the speaker section 7. A battery section 15 is fitted to the head set 5 at the ear for which no speaker section 7 is fitted (abstract). Moreover, the headset system of Umezawa et al. is heavy and does not provide compact size or light weight.

In Kunitono, the purpose is to attain talking in the hands-free state by devising a hand free unit driving an external speaker and an external microphone to be inserted to/withdrawn from a portable telephone set. When the user selects the hands-free mode by a keyboard 18 and a portable telephone set 11 enters the talking state, a reception changeover switch 19R and a transmission changeover switch 19T select a respective sound bus to the position of a desk top hand-free unit 21 by an instruction from a control circuit 17. The unit 21 receives power from a battery pack 20 of the telephone set 11, and transmission/reception audio amplifier circuits 23,24 are activated to allow an external speaker and an external microphone 22 of the unit 21 to be used. Thus, talking in the hands-free mode is attained in response to the selection of the user by adjusting the amplification factor to the circuits 23,24 (abstract).

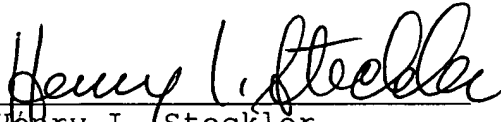
Since the Examiner has not pointed out where in the prior art there is a suggestion to combine the references as required by Ex Parte Jones, 62 USPQ 2d, 1206, 1208, the combination is improper. Further, neither of the references disclose or suggest that the

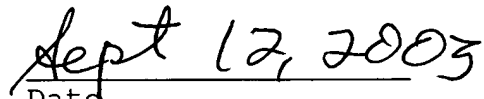
camera and microphone would be in the same element and Kunitono does not even disclose a camera. Thus, the rejection of claims 6 and 12 under 35 USC 103 on Umezawa in view of Kunitomo should be withdrawn since even if these references are combined, the result is not the present invention.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

A check in the amount of \$110.00 is enclosed for a one month extension of time and additional claim fees. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


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